

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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EA-10 /109 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5491

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BERLIN 07019

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GE, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL CALL ON DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER HORST GRUNERT

REF: A) BERLIN 6855, B) BERLIN 6885 C) 6948

1. SUMMARY: I MET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT ON AUGUST 29 FOR A DETAILED AND CANDID DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS AND WAYS TO RESOLVE THEM. GRUNERT STATED THE GDR WANTS A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US, ONE WITHOUT CONFRONTATION. I REVIEWED THE CONSULAR CONVENTION ISSUE. GRUNERT STATED THE US COMPROMISE SUGGESTION TO OMIT THE NATIONALITY CLAUSE WAS NOT YET ACCEPTABLE. IT WAS AGREED THAT FURTHER TALKS SHOULD BE HELD BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE EMBASSY AND THE MFA WITH A VIEW TO FINDING AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE ON NATIONALITY ISSUE. GRUNERT INDICATED THAT DISCUSSIONS ON THE JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS COULD CONTINUE. ON HUMANITARIAN CASES, GRUNERT ASSERTED THAT THE GDR HAD BEEN GENEROUS AND WOULD CONTINUE THIS POLICY IN GENUINE CASES BUT WARNED THAT THIS GENEROUS POLICY SHOULD NOT BE USED TO EMBARRASS OR INJURE THE GDR. GRUNERT SAID THE GDR WANTED BETTER CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THAT

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US PROPOSAL FOR CULTURAL AGREEMENT HAD FALLEN ON FERTILE GROUND. GRUNERT INFORMED ME THAT FONMIN FISCHER WOULD VISIT THE US SEPTEMBER 20 TO OCTOBER 2. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 29, I PAID A CALL ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER HORST GRUNERT, THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND JAPANESE AFFAIRS.

FIRST SECRETARY ESKIN ACCOMPANIED ME. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO EMPHASIZE A NUMBER OF CONCRETE AND PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH I FELT SHOULD BE RESOLVED.

3. GRUNERT OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS ON THE US VICTORIES IN THE SWIM MEET WHICH TOOK PLACE IN (EAST) BERLIN AUGUST 27/28. I COMMENTED THAT WE COULD BOTH BE PROUD BECAUSE OF THE WORLD AND NATIONAL RECORDS THAT WERE BROKEN AND BECAUSE OF THE FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE WHICH WAS MANIFEST. I SAID I THOUGHT THIS KIND OF ATMOSPHERE WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. GRUNERT OBSERVED THAT SPORTS EVENTS REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT FOREIGN "PROPAGANDA" OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GDR.

4. GRUNERT STATED THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE MY MISSION IN THE GDR. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE GOOD COOPERATION WHICH HAD BEEN DEVELOPED WITH AMBASSADOR COOPER AND GRATIFICATION THAT THE PERIOD OF "INTERREGNUM" WAS AT AN END. GRUNERT STRESSED THAT THIS WAS NOT MEANT AS CRITICISM OF THE RELATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN CHARGE, BUT ONLY THAT A WORLD POWER SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE REPRESENTED BY AN AMBASSADOR AND MY ASSIGNMENT TO THE GDR WOULD PROVIDE AN IMPETUS TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE SAID THE GDR IS AWARE THAT IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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DEALING WITH AN IMPORTANT WORLD POWER WHOSE POLICIES ARE CRUCIAL TO PEACE AND WAR. THE GDR, HE SAID, RECOGNIZES THAT ITS OWN INFLUENCE ON THESE ISSUES IS LIMITED. GRUNERT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT US-SOVIET TALKS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE IN THE WORLD AND SAID THAT THE GDR WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS.

5. GRUNERT SAID THAT THE GDR WANTS A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US; WITHOUT CLASHES OR CONFRONTATIONS. DESPITE THE GREAT DIFFERENCES IN OUR SYSTEMS, HE SAID, THE GDR WISHES TO CARRY OUT BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE US IN SUCH A MANNERAS TO PROMOTE DETENTE. HE SAID THAT THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTIES IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT THE GDR WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FIND SOLUTIONS.

6. I RECIPROCATED GRUNERT'S SENTIMENTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, HOPING TO BUILD ON AMBASSADOR COOPER'S RECORD. I NOTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SUGGESTED THAT WE MEET FROM TIME TO TIME TO REVIEW OUR STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THAT

I PLANNED TO TAKE HIM MMUP ON HIS OFFER. I SAID I
THOUGHT THAT BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE
GDR WERE A FACTOR IN STRENGTHENING PEACE AND SECURITY
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION THROUGHOUT EUROPE.
I MENTIONED SOME OF THE AREAS IN WHICH THE US WAS
WORKING WITH THE SOVIET UNION; THERE WERE GOOD
REASONS TO HOPE THAT THE DETENTE PROCESS WOULD CONTINUE.
FINALLY, I REQUESTED GRUNERT'S VIEWS ON SEVERAL SPECIFIC
PROBLEM AREAS.

7. CONSULAR CONVENTION: I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 BERLIN 07019

COULD PUT THIS ISSUE BEHIND US SO WE COULD MOVE MORE
EASILY IN DEVELOPING OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS. I HAD
FOUND FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER'S COMMENTS ENCOURAGING.
I NOTED THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS THE DEFINITION OF
NATIONALITY AND THAT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE THE UNITED
STATES DOES NOT INCLUDE A NATIONALITY CLAUSE IN CONSULAR
CONVENTIONS. I REFERRED TO THE PROPOSAL THAT I HAD
MADE; THAT THE CONSULAR CONVENTION CONTAIN NO NATIONALITY
CLAUSE BUT THAT, AT THE TIME OF SIGNING THE CONSULAR
CONVENTION, BOTH GOVERNMENTS WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT
GIVING THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. I SUGGESTED THAT
WE COULD COORDINATE SUCH STATEMENTS IN ADVANCE. GRUNERT
SAID THAT HE SHARED THE US VIEW ON THE IMPORTANCE OF A
CONSULAR CONVENTION AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE
US POSITION ON A CONSULAR CONVENTION IS DIFFERENT FROM
THAT OF OTHER EUROPEAN STATES. HE SAID THAT THE
NATIONALITY CLAUSE IS NOT A BILATERAL ISSUE; THE PROBLEM
IS THE EFFECT IT HAS ON THIRD COUNTRIES. GRUNERT
SUGGESTED THAT THE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE IN THE US

EMBASSY CONTACT THE HEAD OF THE MFA CONSULAR SECTION (KLOBES) TO ARRANGE FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS TO SEEK A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE SOLUTION ON THE NATIONALITY QUESTION. GRUNERT SAID THAT FOR HIM THE US PROPOSAL ON THE NATIONALITY CLAUSE WAS NOT YET ACCEPTABLE. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND ANALYZE THE PROBLEM. HE HOPED THAT THESE INFORMAL, PRELIMINARY TALKS WOULD REMOVE THE OBSTACLES TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. I INDICATED THAT MR. POLANSKY WOULD UNDERTAKE THE FURTHER TALKS ON THIS ISSUE. I REITERATED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS OUR POLICY NOT TO INCLUDE NATIONALITY CLAUSES IN CONSULAR CONVENTIONS, THAT INCLUSION WOULD PROBABLY BE IN CONFLICT WITH OUR OWN IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW AND THAT THE DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES ON THE NATIONALITY ISSUE SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY EXISTING INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS. I EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT INCLUSION OF A NATIONALITY CLAUSE WOULD IN FACT HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONALITY ISSUE INVOLVING THIRD COUNTRIES. I SAID THE US RECOGNIZES THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF NOTIFICATION AND ACCESS TO GDR CITIZENS BUT THAT I COULD ASSURE HIM THAT WE WOULD INSURE NOTIFICATION AND ACCESS TO GDR NATIONALS. I ALSO TOLD HIM THERE WOULD BE NO SPECIAL AGREEMENTS IN DEROGATION OF THE RIGHTS OF GDR CONSULAR OFFICERS. GRUNERT SUGGESTED THAT WE LEAVE IT TO MR. POLANSKY AND OTHERS TO CONTINUE THE TALKS AND THAT THE MFA WILL EXPECT TO HEAR FROM US. GRUNERT ENDED THE DISCUSSION ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION BY IMPLYING THAT THE SITUATION OF THE GDR IS UNIQUE. IN NO OTHER SITUATION, HE SAID, WOULD A COUNTRY GAIN RECOGNITION BUT NOT ITS CITIZENS. HE SAID THAT THE TALKS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE MFA SHOULD DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF HOW THE GDR CAN PROTECT ITS RIGHTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ITS OWN NATIONALITY.

8. CLAIMS; I RECALLED MY PROPOSAL TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT US AND GDR EXPERTS MEET TO TALK ABOUT CLAIMS PROCEDURES. I SUGGESTED THAT ONE WAY TO BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE TO EXCHANGE LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON CLAIMS. OUR EXPERTS COULD EXCHANGE A LIST OF QUESTIONS THEY WOULD LIKE RESPONSES ON FROM THE OTHER SIDE. THIS WOULD FACILITATE AN INITIAL MEETING AND FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS

ON CLAIMS WHICH ARE STILL SOME TIME OFF. GRUNERT SAID THAT AT THE TIME THE US AND THE GDR ESTABLISHED RELATIONS BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO NEGOTIATE ON CLAIMS WITHIN ONE YEAR. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS THE US WHICH ASKED TO POSTPONE THESE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD INFORMED THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES ABOUT US PROPOSAL TO BEGIN TALKS ON PROCEDURES BUT THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED AN ANSWER.

9. JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS: I TOLD GRUNERT THAT I HAD REPORTED TO WASHINGTON HONECKER'S COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AND SAID THAT I HOPED THESE TALKS COULD CONTINUE. GRUNERT PROCEEDED TO GIVE THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ON THE CLAIMS ISSUE FROM A GDR PROSPECTIVE, SAYING THAT THE GDR OBLIGATION WAS TO PAY COMPENSATION TO THE USSR AND POLAND AND THAT THESE REPARATIONS HAD BEEN PAID IN FULL. BECAUSE OF US GENEROSITY TO THE FRG, WEST GERMANY'S OBLIGATIONS HAD ALSO BEEN FULFILLED. THE LEGAL ISSUE, HE SAID, WAS SETTLED AND THERE ARE NO EXISTING LEGAL CLAIMS AGAINST THE GDR. GRUNERT STATED THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS ORGANIZATION HAD THEREFORE ADVANCED A MORAL ARGUMENT. GRUNERT STATED THAT THE GDR, THROUGH ITS ESTABLISHMENT AS A STATE, HAD FULFILLED ITS MORAL OBLIGATIONS AS WELL. THE GDR HAS THOROUGHLY UP-ROOTED NAZISM, FASCISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM. SUBJECT TO THIS UNDERSTANDING, GRUNERT SAID THE TALKS BETWEEN THE JEWISH CLAIMS ORGANIZATION AND

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CORRECTED COPY (TEXT PARA 11)

THE COMMITTEE OF ANTI-FASCIST RESISTANCE FIGHTERS COULD CONTINUE, NOTING THAT HONECKER HAD SAID THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULD NOT. GRUNERT COMPLAINED THAT ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN A FRG CITIZEN FROM FRANKFURT. GRUNERT EMPHASIZED THAT THE GDR WOULD ONLY RECOGNIZE AMERICANS REPRESENTING AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT MR. FERENCZ (JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE) DID NOT HAVE FULL POWERS BUT THAT THE TALKS HAD CONTINUED NONE THE LESS. HE OBSERVED THAT THE GDR HAD MADE A GENEROUS OFFER BUT THIS HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE CONFERENCE. HE CHARACTERIZED THE TALKS AS HAVING "PECULIAR FEATURES." I TOLD GRUNERT I WOULD RESERVE MY POSITION OF THE REPARATION POINT. AS I HAD EXPLAINED TO HONECKER A CONTINUATION OF THE TALKS WITH THE CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS WOULD BE A POSITIVE FACTOR IN OUR RELATION. THE US ROLE AT THIS TIME WAS TO FACILITATE TALKS BETWEEN CONFERENCE AND THE COMMITTEE WITH A VIEW TO FINDING AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION.

10. HUMANITARIAN CASES; I NOTED THAT THE EMBASSY
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HAD ON JULY 25 GIVEN THE MFA A LIST OF OUTSTANDING EMERGENCY VISITATION CASES. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THESE ANDSIMILAR CASES COULD BE RESOLVED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND THAT, AT THE VERY LEAST, WE COULD OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISPOSITION SO AS TO KEEP CONCERNED MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES INFORMED. GRUNERT REPLIED THAT THE GDR HAD BEEN GENEROUS IN THE PAST AND WOULD CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO THIS BASIC POLICY. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE CASES MUST BE DEALT WITH IN A SERIOUS MANNER AND HE STRESSED THAT THE DECISIONS ON THESE CASES INVOLVED AN EXERCISE OF THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE GDR. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GENEROUS POLICY OF THE GDR SHOULD NOT BE EXPLOITED OR USED TO THE DETRIMENT OF GDR INTERESTS. HE MENTIONED A LETTER RECEIVED BY THE GDR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON FROM A WOMAN FROM THE GDR MARRIED NOW TO AN AMERICAN MAN LIVING IN THE US CLAIMING THAT THE MARRIAGE HAD BEEN A "POLITICAL FARCE" AND THAT HER HUSBAND HAD MARRIED HER ONLY TO GET HER OUT OF THE GDR. GRUNERT SAID THERE ARE OTHER SUCH INSTANCES AND THAT THEY ARE EMBARRASSING. SUCH CASES DO NOT ENCOURAGE THE GDR TO BE FORTHCOMING. IN CASES OF REAL FAMILY RECONCILIATION THE GDR WILL CONTINUE ITS PRESENT POLICY GRUNERT CONCLUDED.

11. CULTURE: I REVIEWED SOME OF THE RECENT POSITIVE

SIGNS IN THE CULTURAL FIELD INCLUDING THE RECENT SWIM MEET, THE IREX AGREEMENT, THE DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT AND THE POSSIBLE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. I EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED WITH THE USG-SPONSORED PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE US FILM WEEK, THE MUSIC ENSEMBLE, THE PHOTO EXHIBIT AND THE AMERICAN LITERATURE SEMINAR. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE COULD MOVE FORWARD IN 1978
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AND THAT WE COULD TALK ABOUT A CONSULAR AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PROMOTE CULTURAL RELATIONS. GRUNERT SAID THAT THE GDR WANTS TO HAVE CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THAT THE FAILURE OF THOSE PROJECTS CITED WAS NOT CAUSED BY THE GDR. THE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE FILM WEEK WERE THE RESULT OF A MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH DID NOT INVOLVE A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. HE STRESSED THAT HE WANTED THE PHOTO EXHIBIT AND WOULD INSURE THAT IT TOOK PLACE. HE SAID THAT THE GDR HAD NOT EARLIER THOUGHT IF A CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH THE US IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD ONLY RECENTLY ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT THE SUGGESTION HAD FALLEN ON FERTILE GROUND

12. JOURNALISTS VISAS: I SAID I THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE A GREATER FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND NOTED THE PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED BY US JOURNALISTS WHO ARE ACCREDITED TO WEST BERLIN AND WEST GERMANY IN OBTAINING ACCREDITATION TO THE GDR AS WELL. GRUNERT REPLIED THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE INSOLUBLE PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT A JOURNALIST ACCREDITED TO THE FRG WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN "ALL-GERMAN" CORRESPONDENT AND THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE A CONCEPT WHICH THE GDR OBJECTS TO. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT JOURNALISTS LIVING IN THE FRG WOULD BE UNFRIENDLY TO THE GDR. GRUNERT CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THIS WAS A SENSITIVE ISSUE. I SAID I WOULD CONVEY HIS REMARKS TO WASHINGTON BUT NOTED THAT THERE WAS A RELATED PROBLEM OF MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS FOR GDR JOURNALISTS TO THE US.

13. OFFICIAL INFORMATION: I NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY AND OTHER US OFFICIALS FREQUENTLY GAVE SPEECHES OR PRESS CONFERENCES CONTAINING IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON US FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO HAVE THE US EMBASSY SEND COPIES OF THESE STATEMENTS DIRECTLY TO INTERESTED
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PERSONS IN THE GDR. I SAID THIS PRACTICE IS CONSISTENT

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WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND IS IN PRACTICE IN THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. GRUNERT SAID THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR EMBASSY TO DISTRIBUTE MATERIAL IN THE GDR ON CONDITION IT IS NOT HOSTILE TO THE GDR OR THIRD COUNTRIES AND PROVIDED THAT THE PRESS SECTION OF THE MFA IS GIVEN COPIES THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE. IF THE PRESS SECTION RAISES NO OBJECTION THE MISSION IS FREE TO DISTRIBUTE THE MATERIAL.

14. VANCE-FISCHER TALKS: GRUNERT SAID THAT FONMIN FISCHER WOULD DEPART FOR THE US ON SEPTEMBER 20 AND WOULD REMAIN THERE UNTIL OCTOBER 2. GRUNERT SAID THAT HE FELT SURE THAT THESE TALKS WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR US-GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR TALKS, GRUNERT ASKED FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO PEKING. I PROMISED TO PROVIDE GRUNERT A COPY OF THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE CONTAINED IN THE WIRELESS FILE. BOLEN

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